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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Branch
821 Market Street, Room 615
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News
Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending December 5, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 2---A look at this week's vegetable market shows us that prices are continuing to go higher, while many items vary in quality -- depending upon how much winter weather they have endured.

Celery is a little higher priced, but it's still a good buy in comparison with other vegetables.

Cabbage heads the list of fair buys, followed by heavier supplies of cauliflower at slightly lower prices, eggplant, sweet potatoes, and bunched green onions.

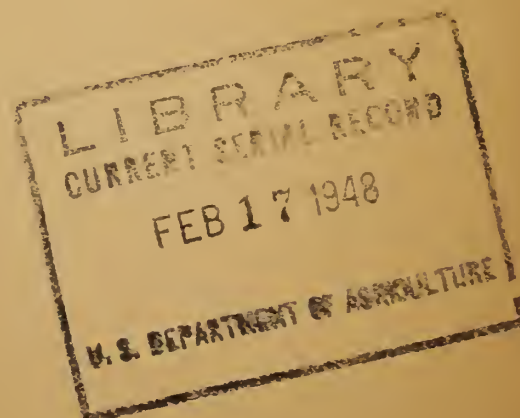
Artichokes and carrots are selling at luxury prices, while prices remain fairly high on beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, mushrooms, onions, peas, peppers, squash, and potatoes.

When it comes to lettuce and tomatoes, the quality is unpredictable.

There is no change from last week on fruits. California Newtown apples, grapes, grapefruit, Navel oranges, and small Valencia oranges constitute the best buys, with persimmons a fair buy.

Supplies of tangerines are becoming heavier, but prices are still pretty high.

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Post-holiday trading in the San Francisco wholesale meat market has been largely on miscellaneous products. With beef slaughter about 10 per cent less during last week's short period of trading, indications are for a relatively lighter supply of Good steer and heifer beef and an advance of \$1.00 to \$2.00 in prices. Meager offerings of veal are slightly higher. There has been some accumulation in lamb supplies -- possibly because of the large volume of turkey-meat that has been available. All four grades (Choice, Good, Commercial, Utility) are to be found. Colder weather has ~~stimulated~~ demand for pork, with the weekly slaughter being pushed up 10 per cent. Fresh pork is about unchanged in price, but skinned smoked hams are \$3.00 to \$4.00 higher. Smoked bacon is limited in volume and also up in price.

Wholesale butter prices have jumped 6 cents from a week ago. Grade A(92 Score) is quoted 88 cents per pound, Grade B(90 Score) at 79-80 cents per pound. Reasons include the fact that production is now at a seasonal low, storage reserves are limited, and San Francisco's retail sales are on the upgrade.

Egg prices have taken a 2-cent hike on Grade "A" Mediums and Smalls, and on Grade "B" Large, while Grade "A" Large eggs remain unchanged from last week. Wholesale quotations run at 64-65 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dozen on Grade "A" Large, 59-60 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents on Mediums, 53-54 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents on Smalls, and at 55-56 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents on Grade "B" Large eggs. Stocks are clearing well under the continued good demand, but generally, there are ample supplies of top grades.

Before Thanksgiving, turkeys held the spotlight on the poultry market. But now that the holiday rush is over, the turkey market has settled back to a more normal basis, with young hens in little demand and young toms in good demand by hotels and restaurants. Both are priced 1-cent per pound less on dressed weights. Ducks are also down 1-cent on live and dressed weights, while geese are priced 1 to 2 cents higher. Live squabs are 5 cents higher. All other classes of poultry remain unchanged in price.

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Journal of Management Studies, 19(1), 67-80.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending December 12, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 9---This week shoppers looking for the best buys in vegetables will find that cauliflower is considerably lower priced and a good buy, along with celery.

A good supply of lettuce is now coming in from Arizona and Southern California, and it can be considered a fair buy at lower prices. Snap beans and peppers are a little lower this week to make them a fair buy for this season of the year. Other fair buys include cabbage, eggplant (slightly higher), sweet potatoes, and squash (lower).

Broccoli is a shade lower priced but still too high to be considered a fair buy.

Mushrooms and onions are commanding higher prices this week, while Brussels sprouts, peas and potatoes remain fairly high.

Artichokes and carrots will be found in the scarce-and-high department.

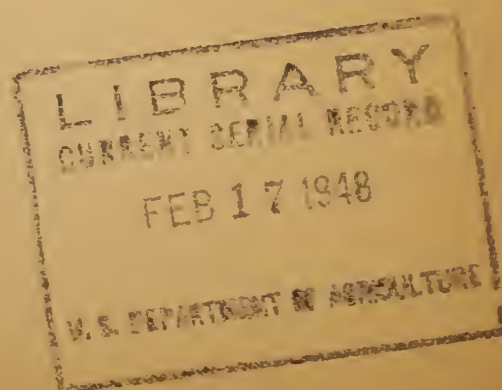
FRUIT -- There's practically no change in the situation on fruits. California Newtown apples, grapefruit, and Navel oranges are still the best buys.

Grapes can only be considered a fair buy, since most of the stock in the market now is from storage. Winter pears and persimmons are also fair buys.

Quite a few tangerines are coming in, but they're still pretty high.

Prices have dropped a little on avocados.

(MORE)



Cold weather, higher replacement costs, and the best Thanksgiving clearance in many years have been instrumental in upping the price of beef, veal, and smoked pork cuts. With the upping of prices, demand came in for a let-down. As a result, there has been a general adjusting of beef slaughter to a lesser volume. Not all of the lower grades have been clearing. Demand has been practically nil on Utility grade and only fair on Canner and Cutter carcasses. Good steer and heifer beef is \$2.00 higher, Commercial and Utility steer and heifer beef is up \$1.00, and Top-Commercial young cow beef is \$1.00 higher. About five grades of veal are being offered at prices unevenly \$1.00 to \$2.00 higher. Smoked skinned hams weighing less than 18 pounds are up \$1.00, while smoked bacon is \$2.00 higher. There's a broad inquiry for mutton but only a fair demand for lamb -- a sort of reversal of the usual trend. The largest volume of fresh pork offered in many weeks is selling \$1.00 lower, even though cold weather has stimulated demand.

Wholesale butter prices have settled down a little from their 6-cent jump of last week. Grade A(92 Score) is quoted lower at 87 cents per pound and Grade B(90 Score) down at 78 cents. Price resistance is probably the main cause. Production is still lagging behind last year in all areas except the West.

Egg prices on the wholesale market are generally 2 cents higher than last week, with Grade "A" Large quoted at 66-67½ cents per dozen, Mediums at 61-63½ cents, Smalls at 55-56½ cents, and Grade "B" Large at 57½-58½ cents. Supplies are unable to keep pace with the current demand. Storage supplies here on the Pacific Coast are also considerably smaller than last year.

The demand for poultry has perked up after a post-holiday slump. Prices are higher on some classes. Small broilers are 1/2-cent higher on live weights; colored roasters are up 1 cent per pound on live weights; colored fowl is priced 1-cent higher on both live and dressed weights; hen turkeys are 1-cent higher alive and 3 cents higher dressed; tom turkeys are up 2 cents on live weights and 3 cents on dressed weights. Lightweight colored fryers have been in less demand, and they're down 2 to 3 cents per pound, dressed.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending December 19, 1947)

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SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 16---Best buys in fruits and vegetables this week consist of three — Santa Cruz County Newtown apples, Navel oranges, and cauliflower.

On the fairly-good-buy counter you'll find grapefruit, cabbage, lettuce, and celery.

Labeled as "fair buys" will be grapes, pears, and tangerines.

High-priced items include: Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, artichokes, carrots, onions, potatoes, squash, mushrooms, peppers, snap beans, and avocados.

There should be plenty of fresh pork in the markets, since slaughter this past week has been about as large as during the first week of last January. Prices are somewhat lower, too, with fresh pork carcasses selling mostly \$1.00 lower, and loins \$2.00 lower. Skinned No. 1 smoked hams are unchanged in price, but smoked bacon is up \$2.00. Some accumulation in beef supplies has been evident. Quality is mostly of Good and lesser grades, while prices are ranging from unchanged ^{to} \$1.00 lower on Good steer and heifer beef. There's not much change from last week on veal. The quality on lamb has tapered down to a range of Choice to Common grades, with prices about unchanged. Ewe mutton is very limited in supply but is in more demand at prices \$3.00 higher.

A good demand for top grade butter has brought the wholesale price of Grade A (92 Score) up 1-cent from last week to a quotation of 88 cents per pound. Grade B (90 Score) is 2 cents lower at 76 cents per pound. San Francisco's retail sales are on the downgrade and are 3.4 per cent below last

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year, while production here in the West is 4 percent above last year.

All wholesale egg prices are higher this week for the same reasons as last week. Fresh supplies are unable to keep pace with the good demand for top grades, and storage supplies are diminishing. Grade "A" Large eggs are quoted 3 cents higher at $69-70\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dozen; Mediums are up 3 to 4 cents at $65-66\frac{1}{2}$ cents; Smalls are 1-cent higher at $56-57\frac{1}{2}$ cents; and Grade "B" Large eggs are 1-cent higher at $58\frac{1}{2}-59\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dozen.

With poultry in rather slow demand, supplies have accumulated and small broilers have been under pressure to sell. As a result, prices are $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound lower on live broilers of less than $2\frac{1}{4}$ pounds, and 2 to 3 cents per pound lower on dressed weights. Lightweight colored fryers and heavyweight Leghorn fowl are also 1-cent per pound lower alive. Turkeys are up about 1-cent on both live and dressed weights, while dressed geese have jumped 5 cents per pound since last week.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Dec. 26, 1947)

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SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23---This week's best buys in the fruit department are California Newtown apples and all sizes of Navel oranges.

Grapefruit is slightly higher priced and a fairly good buy, as are Emperor grapes.

Pears and tangerines can be considered as fair buys.

In the vegetable section, cabbage and excellent quality cauliflower are tops as "best buys."

Celery comes in as a fairly good buy.

Eggplant and spinach are fair buys.

Lettuce has gone up in price considerably to become a luxury, along with artichokes and carrots.

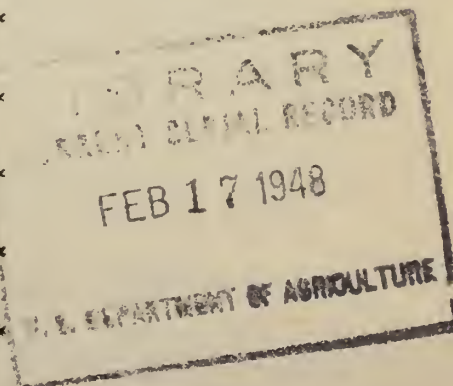
Prices on snap beans continue to go higher. Onions, Bell peppers sweet potatoes, and squash are all bringing higher prices this week. Potatoes are high, too.

(MORE)

* C H R I S T M A S D E P A R T M E N T *

* We're wishing everyone of you

* the merriest one ever.



Last week's hog slaughter in the San Francisco wholesale market stood at 11,000 head -- the largest in over a year. There's plenty of pork to be found in the markets. There's no great change in prices. Fresh carcasses are unchanged; pork loins are selling \$2.00 to \$3.00 lower. Skinned smoked hams are ranging from unchanged to \$3.00 lower. No change on bacon. Cow beef is in more demand. It's higher priced partly because of the increase in demand and partly because replacement costs are higher. Young Commercial cow beef is selling \$3.00 to \$4.00 higher, Utility \$2.00 higher, and Canner and Cutter \$1.00 to \$2.00 higher. The quality of steer and heifer beef has improved considerably and runs from Good grade and down. There's very little Choice grade veal around; most of the supply is of Good to Cull grade. Lamb is in fair demand at unchanged prices. Ewe mutton is in widespread demand and holding last week's \$3.00 price rise.

Butter prices have jumped 2 to 6 cents since last week to equal last year's all-time high, as the result of the stimulated pre-holiday demand. Grade A(92 Score) is quoted 2 cents higher at 90 cents per pound. Grade B(90 Score) is up 6 cents at 82 cents per pound.

Egg prices have dropped since last week. Both Grade "A" and "B" Large eggs are 3 cents lower; Grade "A" Mediums and Smalls are 2 cents lower. Wholesale quotations run at 66-67 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dozen for Grade "A" Large, 63-64 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents for Mediums, 54-55 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents for Smalls, and 55 $\frac{1}{2}$ -56 $\frac{1}{2}$ for Grade "B" Large. Lower prices in other markets and heavier supplies are the chief reasons for the drop.

Poultry price fluctuations have been only minor. Turkeys have gone up the most. Young turkey hens are selling 1-2 cents per pound higher on live weights and 4 cents higher dressed. Young toms are 1-cent higher on both live and dressed weights. Supplies of chickens are ample, especially Leghorn fowl.

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